



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ETHAN DAVIS, CHAIR
ANDREW COMPAGNA
NICK CUTIA
SHEILA FAY
MICHAEL IZZO
JANET JAMESON
PETER KEPPLER
MARIA SAIZ

November 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Ethan Davis (chair), Shiela Fay, Janet Jameson; Nick Cutia, Michael Izzo, Andy Compagna, Peter Keppler

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
2. DESIGNATE SECRETARY TO FILL IN FOR NATALIE: Peter Keppler filled in as Secretary.
3. UPCOMING PRESENTATION/REQUESTS TO TOWN COUNCIL: Ethan has the old presentation on the connector from the Greenway across Arsenal St, through the Arsenal Project and Arsenal Park to Greenough Blvd. He will update it to do the annual presentation to the Watertown Town Council. Issues suggested to be covered are re-striping of main roads in Watertown (encouraging this on Mt Auburn St in particular, despite eventual plan to reconfigure Mt Auburn). Also discussed was making a request for a modest budget to cover committee activities. \$500 was discussed as reasonable.
4. HSIP (HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM) BIKEABILITY PROJECT: Ethan found out Sgt. Sampson is the contact for this at Watertown PD. Ethan spoke with him and learned that: funds have been disbursed to towns including to Watertown PD. The current effort under the program has been stopping bicyclists making "violations" and instead of ticketing using the opportunity to gather data – in the form of answers to questions like: "This is what you did – why did you do it?" Ethan mentioned that the opening phase meeting happened with no Bike/Ped representation but Ethan requested to be included in future communications on meetings/activities. The committee discussed the existence of bicycle rules and what was the level of police understanding. An example given was the use of the bicycle box at intersections in Boston.
5. ATHENA HEALTH BIKE RACK RESPONSE: Gideon Schreiber of the Watertown Planning department had forwarded the response he received from Athena Health regarding the movement of a bike parking area/racks inside the main parking garage nearest their building at the Arsenal. Apparently it is not ADA-compliant to have the space beneath a staircase fenced or blocked off – particularly for blind people. The bike parking area was moved to another corner of the garage and the area fenced off. Athena maintains the current situation/location of the bike racks is temporary. The point was raised that the current situation is a poor and unsafe accommodation of bike parking due to rack positioning, an adjacent traffic lane and no working lighting in that corner of the garage.
6. NEW BUSINESS: topics raised in this segment:
 - a. 65 Grove St building plans: Mike mentioned he had received the plans. Janet heard them mentioned at a public meeting. The committee discussed the situation with the nearby Tufts parking garage being under-used with people choosing to instead park on neighborhood streets in order to avoid the delay getting out of the garage at the end of the workday.
 - b. The lack of striping on main roads in town was again raised.

- c. The committee discussed a need for a strategy to make Mt Auburn St safer in the interim before reconstruction happens.
- d. How to maximize the committee's effect on the town Site Planning committee – Mike is our representative on it. We discussed how to loop the committee in on new plans or meetings that have happened.
- e. Watertown Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has received an award from the Watertown/Belmont Chamber of Commerce for outstanding dedication and service to youth.